4/15/70

Dear Harold,

Today I got your package of letters to me and Dick plus Nichols.

4/7 to all re. Skolnick: As you know, I wrote you yesterday on exactly this. When I read your letters on the "case," my stomach turned. Funny, it produced the smae feeling I got when I read the papers after Clay Shaw was acquitted. Lord help us if this guy turns out to be what you expect.

4/11 to me: Thanks for the comments on the Fisher letter. I made all the changes you suggest except to push harder on the structure in brain. Other than that, it is like the draft. May send carbon depending on what kind of respone I get.

As for a wound to the hand, I don't think your letter provides a valid basis for rejecting the possibility. Perhaps if you have never seen hand wounds you do not fully understand--they can be easily overlooked on a bloody body. As for the time at parkland, I think it highly probable that a hand wound be overlooked. Remeber, on a dead or limp body, the fingers relax and curl up, shielding palm. Also, the palm is a good place for blood to pool and clot thus covering up a wound. If the body was never washed at autopsy (it should be) then there is the distinct possibility that others in the room would never have noticed a hand wound. The docs should have seen it.

What you say toward discounting a hand wound could have been said two years ago about rejecting neck fragments. All of those people--including FBI and SS--looked at the X-rays. Do you really think there was no mention of them at all in the room. And, of course, can we be sure without the vital X-rays of the extremities, those existing but not shown to the panel?

The "hypothetical" set-up of the neck fragments I gave to Dick and you is not hypothetical--it is true. I make the letters establishing this available to you and Dick on an absolutely confidential basis. I wrote Morgan under a different name--that of a friend. I do not believe this to be particularly dishonest. However, after what transpired with Fisher, I felt that Morgan might be too reluctant to give me what I wanted. I did not want to take the chance, and my desire was not to set a record but to get the info. As M indicates, a thousand microns equals a millimeter, so you can imagine how small the neck fragments are. The second letter provides possible corroboration for what Barnes told me about the neck fragments being carefully described in the report. Note that M points out the clarity of the fragments on the film. Does this eliminate any excuse for the autopsy docs saying they missed them? Again, keep this 100% quiet, please.

4/12 to Nichols: I am glad that you made this effort, though I would not speculate on the results. I will see Nichols tomorrow. Much to my regret, I cannot tape for I am meeting him in town at his hotel and there is no way I can lug my big and heavy recorder there. However, I can make notes, and, he be willing, copy direct quotes or have him write me statements at a later time on whatever we discuss which I think could be important. I'd like to pick up with him on the head wounds where I left off and faultered with Fil. Won't bring you up. I will treat him as an expert and take what he offers. Ithink there is potential.

4/13 to me and Dick: What makes you "without doubt of the

validity" of what you noted on the 399 base pix? Is it something new or just based on what I've already seen?

On Lifton, I keep in the back of my mind that I cannot underestimate him. Although I think we are on the same frequency when you are glad to hear that I'm "past that stage," this does not mean (and I think you feel the same) that there is nothing more or important to be gotten from the photos. Especially if it is a case where t ere was deliberate falsification or fake analysis by WC or FBI. I do believe I have a lever with the Tink-Specter tape, at least I will use it as such. I do want photos and he apparently has them and can pass some. I may finally be able to make a dub of my tape so can make you a copy too. You understand my basis of correspondance with him--that I will discuss nothing important, offer little if any of my materials, and ask for whatever he can give.

I just wrote the Arc for picture of FBI 60. Let them tell me they do not have it; also asked for their own slit photo. If they tell me FBI 60 and 59 not there in original, will write Hoover.

I don't have Dick's 4/9 yet, but it takes his letters longer to get to me than to you--usually a week.

Glad you liked the Rap Brown story from Inquirer. I will call Friedman--at least try to contact him through paper.

Hurriedly,

Harold

CC. Dick